



**MINUTES OF THE
WASHOE COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

September 2, 2020

Washoe County Senior Center, Reno, Nevada 89512

Zoom Webinar

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/78207944707?pwd=ZkgvSHFXeUxzMkNlRXNaWHd3R1F1dz09>

- *Call To Order** - Meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m. by Chair- Dr. Larry Weiss.
- *Roll Call** – Dr. Larry Weiss asked for the roll call; Sandra Vasquez took the roll. There was a quorum present via Zoom meeting.

WASHOE COUNTY SENIOR SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS:

PRESENT VIRTUALLY		ABSENT (EXCUSED*)
Dr. Larry Weiss	Danada Rausch (Phone)	* Jennifer McMenomy
James Doyle	Donna Clontz	*Rick Sorensen
Mark Miranda	Barbara Korosa	*Sarah Deardorff
Linda Hardie		

WASHOE COUNTY STAFF PRESENT

Steve McBride
Abby Willrich
Amber Howell
Herbert Kaplan (DA)
Sandra Vasquez

ADVISOR PRESENT

Connie McMullen
ADVISOR (ABSENT)
Victoria Edmondson

- *Public Comment** –
No public comment.
- *Member Announcements** –
Donna stated she received an email from Sanford and they are offering educational seminars through Zoom. She will give the information to Sandra. Also, the Sparks Senior Citizen Advisory Board has created a wonderful newsletter that is being distributed.
- Approval of the Agenda for the Advisory Board Meeting on September 2, 2020 (For Possible Action)**
Motion to approve the agenda was made by James Doyle and seconded by Linda Hardie. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Approval of the Minutes for the Advisory Board Meeting on August 5, 2020 (For Possible Action)

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Donna Clontz and seconded by Mark Miranda.
Motion passed unanimously.

7. *Presentation regarding information about Dispatch Health- Joe Cummings, Market Director

Joe Cummings presented about Dispatch Health (see attachment). Dispatch Health has been available in the area since April. BJ Wright, Regional Director, Community Engagement is in attendance as well. Dispatch Health is a mobile medical provider that offers simple to complex care for people of all ages in the comfort and safety of their home. The provider team includes a physician assistant or nurse practitioner and an emergency trained medical technician. A board-certified ER physician is always available via phone for consultation as well. They serve as an addition to primary care physicians, specialists, home health, and wound care teams. The average time a patient is seen is about 45 minutes; they like to provide quality care. Seniors have the greatest need for home based medical services. Dispatch Health is doing its part to help seniors stay safe at home. They are currently able to test for COVID-19 and able to treat and support COVID-19 patients. The Dispatch Team wears surgical masks, gloves, protective eyewear for every patient encounter. Most insurance plans are accepted, including FSA and HSA. There is a flat fee of \$275 for those without insurance. They can be contacted via phone or through their mobile app to request service.

8. *Update and discussion regarding Behavioral Health – Dorothy Edwards, Washoe County Behavioral Health Program Coordinator

Dorothy states that when COVID occurred, the MOST team was pulled since there were no ride alongs. Calls were made via radios and sometimes they would have to respond in person. Currently, they have returned back to normal activities. During the pandemic domestic violence went up and suicide calls went up too. There is a Resilience grant through FEMA that the state of Nevada received; the purpose is to deploy ambassadors (Washoe County received 6), the first group would focus on people who tested positive for COVID-19 or lost a person due to it. They are there to offer support, with one of the purposes to offer mental health assistance. First responders and seniors are included in this. The assistance will also be those who have lost their job. If someone knows someone who tested positive and having trouble, they can call her or Julia Ratti to follow up. The program is very beneficial, and they hope to get more funding after a year. Also, every other year, the board that Dorothy is in gets a BDR (bill draft request) and they look for programs not requiring too much funding. The BDR is to focus on Behavioral Health, usually there are sessions to testify on the bills, the plan is for it to be virtual, but that can change. Also, it is hard for homeless people to quarantine safely. Joe Cummings asked if they can connect due to people being able to quarantine safely.

9. *Update and discussion on Washoe County issues and activities relating to seniors – Steve McBride, Division Director

Steve stated Amber Howell will be discussing. Amber updated that they have welcomed 27 families as of June 15. The women transitioned to the Reno Events Center and then to the overflow shelter. On August 14 they also welcomed 73 women to the women's shelter, there is also a wing for people with pets and a wing for seniors. The Temporary Assistance for Displaced Seniors (TADS) has been able to relax criteria for their program. They also opened the daycare with 45 kids and currently there are 83. As far as capacity, it is lower due to COVID restrictions.

10.*Update on Sparks Senior Citizen Advisory Committee - Donald Abbott

Marsy Kupfersmith stated the committee hasn't been able to meet. They did create a newsletter and distributed them everywhere in Sparks. The COVID situation is affecting all seniors, Marsy stated it is important to make sure that everyone knows seniors are still here. She is grateful for the Sparks City Council and is sorry about the Mayor passing. Donald explained the newsletter and stated he would email the newsletter to Sandra so she can distribute to the Board (see attachment).

11. Update, report, discussion, and possible recommendations regarding age friendly communities sponsored by AARP throughout the county and cities (For Possible Action) – Donna Clontz

Donna stated the focus for AARP is information access, housing, and transportation. She states they provided a 1-page survey to some of the senior population; when they compiled the surveys from Volunteers of America, the results were given (see attachment). Donna stated she can do number crunching and get results. Amber stated she has someone that can work with surveys.

12. Report, discussion, and possible recommendations regarding recruiting new board members for District 5 and an Alternate seat (For Possible Action)

a) Deborah Whitehouse for Alternate Seat

b) Lester Fischer for District 5

Motion to recommend Deborah Whitehouse for Alternate seat to the Board of County Commission was made by Linda Hardie and seconded by Donna Clontz. Motion passed unanimously.

Deborah states she is passionate about what she does.

Lester states his background is on small business and has lived in Sparks for 7 years and wants to be an active volunteer.

Donna and Sandra stated that Lester Fischer lives in District 4, not District 5; Larry stated even though there is no opening for District 4, Lester is invited to attend meetings as part of the public.

13. Report, discussion, and possible recommendation regarding board members volunteering to make Friendly Visitor Calls on a regular basis to selected Home Delivered Meals clients (For Possible Action)

Linda states she has to remove herself from the list. Mark states he would like to volunteer.

Abby stated only a handful of people stated they would like to receive the phone call, it's about 2 or 3 people. She stated she would like to keep it to the Board since there is not too much demand at the moment.

14. Report, discussion, possible recommendations and updates on the Advisory Board member's Shared Issues and Goals for Housing, Advocacy, Communication & Information, Data Planning, Transportation, Nutrition Programs, Social & Recreation, Senior Law, Volunteering, Financing, and Social & Health Services (For Possible Action)

Donna stated that regarding transportation, AARP is having a virtual conference on September 15 and 16 and it's free, people just need to register to it. Larry stated he just attended a Zoom meeting with AARP and they will be having more virtual conferences.

15. Report, discussion, and possible recommendations on senior board members to attend ongoing Washoe County public meetings (For Possible Action)

No updates available.

16. Agenda items for the next Board meeting

General items for the next meeting.

17. *Public comment –

Donna stated she has been working with seniors on how to use the Zoom meeting application and is grateful for having the public attend the meetings.

Paco Lachoy stated he has been working to get a channel and or radio just for seniors.

18. Adjournment (For Possible Action)

Motion to adjourn was made by Donna Clontz and seconded by Mark Miranda. Motion was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 4:23 pm.